

Field Notes: October 2012

• Mountain Chickadee • Band-tailed Pigeon • Curlew Sandpiper • Rough-legged Hawk

Tom and Allison Mickel, 541.485.7112 tamickel@rioussa.com

After more than three months of nearly zero rainfall, it finally arrived in the middle of the month and continued through the month! The last of the neotropical migrants appear to have headed south for the winter, and most of the wintering species are showing up. It will be interesting to see if Mountain Chickadees continue to be found in the western lowlands during the winter.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose	Oct 3	FRR – W Coyote	NS	Normally seen in the winter with large flocks of geese.
Eurasian Wigeon (5)	Oct 23	Delta Ponds	EM	The first report for the winter.
Blue-winged Teal	Oct 3	Delta Ponds	LM, et al.	Getting late for this summering species.
Common Loon	Oct 7	Willamette River	DG	Not normally seen on the river in Eugene.
Black-crowned Night-Heron (7)	Oct 12	FRR – Royal Ave	EC	An unusually large flock.

VULTURES to OWLS

Turkey Vulture (19)	Oct 5	South Eugene	SG	Headed directly south.
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct 28	Meadowlark Prairie	LM, DA	First report for the winter season.
American Golden-Plover	Oct 6	FRR – Fisher unit	LF	Last report of this bird.
Lesser Yellowlegs (8)	Oct 2	FRR – Fisher unit	BMc	A good number for this late in the fall.
Marbled Godwit	Oct 20	SJSR – crab dock	AC, TMe,	DF Getting late for this species.
Pectoral Sandpiper (21)	Oct 3	FRR – W Coyote	NS	Good numbers for this late migrant.
Barn Owl	Oct 16	SJSR deflation plain	DP	Not normally found during the day.
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Oct 17	South Eugene	SG	100th species on his yard list in 37 years!

PIGEONS to FINCHES

Band-tailed Pigeon (3)	Oct 16	Siuslaw R., S Slough	DP	Getting late for this species.
Belted Kingfisher (10)	Oct 3	Delta Ponds	LM, et al.	A large number for any location.
Three-toed Woodpecker	Sept 30	Waldo Lake	MPk, RH	Always a good area for them.
Three-toed Woodpecker	Oct 18	Tumblebug	Creek CF	In an old burn area – always a good place.
Black Phoebe (6)	Oct 3	Delta Ponds	LM, et al.	Higher than normal numbers.
Tropical Kingbird	Oct 20	SJSR deflation plain	AC, TMe, DF	A rare, but somewhat regular fall species along the coast.
Northern Shrike	Oct 20	SJSR deflation plain	AC, TMe, DF	A normal time for their arrival.
Northern Shrike	Oct 28	FRR – Fisher unit	NS	An area where they're normally found.
Horned Lark	Oct 28	FRR – E Coyote	NS	An area where they've been reported in the past.
Mountain Chickadee	Oct 4	Oakridge	MS	They seem to be making their way to the west side of the Cascades this fall.
Mountain Chickadee (2)	Oct 10	Florence	DP	
Swainson's Thrush	Oct 15	Creswell	NS	A couple weeks later than normal.
Northern Mockingbird	Oct 25	Alvadore	AP, BH	Returned for the winter? One wintered last year.
Northern Mockingbird	Oct 28	FRR – Fisher unit	NS	A good fall for them!
Cedar Waxwing (430+)	Oct 17	River Road area	TMe	A large flock feeding on fruit in his yard.
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct 17	River Road area	TMe	A species that occasionally winters – one did last year in his yard.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct 18	SE Eugene	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season.
Palm Warbler (2)	Oct 7	SJSR deflation plain	NS	A normal time for their migration.
Common Yellowthroat	Oct 28	FRR – Fisher unit	NS	Always one of the last migrants to leave.
Chipping Sparrow	Oct 24	Delta Ponds	DS, et al.	Getting late for this species.
Western Tanager	Oct 6	North Eugene	BG	Last report for the breeding season.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Oct 28	FRR – E Coyote	NS	Normally gone by now.
Pine Siskin	Oct	Western Lane Co.	m. ob.	Large flocks were reported for most of the month.
Evening Grosbeak	Oct	Eugene/Springfield	m. ob.	Good numbers around most of the month.

Correction

Curlew Sandpiper

14 Aug Heceta Beach

A&TM

This bird was reported as a Red Knot, but photos clearly show it to be a Curlew Sandpiper – 3rd/4th Lane Co. record.

DA Dennis Arendt, EC Ellen Cantor, AC Alan Contreras, DF Daniel Farrar, CF Cheron Ferland, LF Lukas Ferrenburg, DG Dan Gleason, SG Steve Gordon, BG Brandon Green, RH Rosie Hammond, BH Bill Hunter, MS Marylee Sayre, EM Elliot McIntire, BMc Barry McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, TMe Thomas Meinzen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, MPk Magnus Persmark, DP Diane Pettey, AP Al Prigge, DS Don Schrouder, NS Noah Strycker.